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Ambassador-nominee to the European Union
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Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee.

I am honored to appear before you today as President Bush's nominee to head the Mission of the United States of America to the European Union. I would like to thank the President and Secretary Rice for the confidence they have shown in nominating me for this challenging assignment.

Mr. Chairman, I am convinced of the importance of engaging the European Union on virtually all major foreign policy interests of the United States. As President Bush said in his second Inaugural address, "All that we seek to achieve in the world requires that America and Europe remain close partners." These are the marching orders and if I am confirmed, I will focus on finding ways for us to advance freedom and address common global challenges.

Mr. Chairman, with our stable, prosperous, and free societies, the United States and the European Union share a deep interest in promoting

peace and democracy throughout the world. As one of the key elements of the State Department's strategy to advance these interests, I will enlist Europe to advance our global freedom agenda. In a speech she gave in Paris, Secretary Rice said of America and Europe, "We are strong, but we are strongest when we put our values to work for those whose aspiration of freedom and prosperity have yet to be met." Throughout the Middle East, but also in Afghanistan, the Caucasus, and Africa, the U.S. and the European Union must continue to coordinate policy to help create a world in which the rule of law and respect for human rights become the norm and tyranny a rare exception.

As the events of September 11, 2001, March 11, 2004 in Madrid and July 7, 2005 in London show, the United States and European Union have become more vulnerable to threats which are more diverse, less visible and less predictable. At their June 20 Summit, President Bush and the European Union leaders pledged to cooperate in our efforts to combat global terrorism and to address the conditions that terrorists exploit. To this end, if confirmed by the Senate, I will work to enhance our cooperation in our fight against terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to strengthen the security of the American people.

Another key aspect of our relationship with the European Union is the economic partnership. Built on 3.2 trillion dollars of investment and trade, it is the broadest and deepest economic relationship our country has ever had. Therefore, improving our economic relationship with the European Union is an excellent investment for our own economic health. Our business communities on both sides of the Atlantic have told us that we must work together to reduce regulatory barriers if we are to pave the way for a barrier-free transatlantic marketplace. In addition, we believe the United States and the European Union, as the world's largest economies, have a special responsibility to promote strong global growth and to lead the way to a freer global marketplace. By cooperating strategically, we can lead in many areas, such as reconstruction in Afghanistan and Iraq, economic reform in the Middle East, growth in Africa, and improved economic governance in institutions like the IMF, the World Bank, and the WTO.

Let me touch briefly on trade. Our tremendously successful economic relationship puts into perspective our sometimes serious differences in the trade area. But friends must speak frankly about their disagreements and do all they can to find good-faith solutions that both parties can accept. If

confirmed, I will vigorously defend U.S. trade interests. I will be persistent. I will be fair. And I will expect the European Union to be the same.

I also wish to speak briefly about my commitment to strengthening the work of multilateral organizations. Recognizing the pre-eminent position of NATO in our dealings with Europe on security and defense issues, we must acknowledge the importance of improving the NATO-EU relationship. Such an improvement would serve to enhance our engagement with Europe as a whole. As well, in the United Nations and in other multilateral contexts, we must cooperate more closely on issues that must be addressed on a global scale, such as the protection of the environment and combating the scourge of HIV/AIDS. At the same time, we must not allow our differences or misinformation on, for example, the Kyoto Protocol or the International Criminal Court to weaken our efforts to achieve the goals we share for a more just, freer, and more peaceful world.

Mr. Chairman, if I am confirmed, public diplomacy will be another one of my top priorities. The image of the United States in Europe is becoming more positive, but work remains. The U.S. Ambassador to the European Union has the responsibility to represent the President and the

American people and a unique opportunity to shape European Union perceptions through an active and aggressive outreach strategy. I pledge to reach out to a wide-range of European communities, to listen to their concerns and explain our vision and beliefs.

Mr. Chairman, if confirmed, I envision pressing a full and broad agenda with the European Union. I believe that much of my professional experience will prove valuable in advancing that agenda. My principal qualification for this post is I have had long experience in and out of government with economic issues such as trade, regulation and antitrust which form the core of the EU job. I was Counsel to the Presidential Task Force on Regulatory Relief, chaired by Vice-President Bush for much of the Reagan Presidency, which had the point role on most of these issues in the 1980's. For the other years of my legal career in private practice, I have specialized in antitrust, regulatory and trade issues, and served as Chair of the Administrative and Constitutional Law Section of the America Bar Association several years ago (and commissioned in that capacity a detailed comparison of EU and US administrative law which will be completed in the next two years). I have published numerous articles and participated in numerous conferences in these fields both here and in Europe. With respect

to the other responsibilities of the EU post, I gained considerable foreign policy experience during my White House years, including my role as Counsel to the Presidential Commission on Terrorism chaired by then Vice-President Bush in the late 1980s. In addition, my legal experience, including some criminal practice, gives me an advantage over a non-lawyer in dealing with the law enforcement issues related to counter-terrorism. Finally, I was deeply involved in the legal and Congressional aspects of the first Gulf War.

Our agenda with the European Union is immensely important, since all of the issues I have mentioned affect the life of every American. Thus, they are of great interest to the United States and to the Bush administration. If confirmed, I look forward to consulting regularly with and receiving advice from this Committee and the Congress. I thank you for considering my nomination.

I would be pleased to answer any questions you and the members of the Committee may have. Thank you.